

# **Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council**

**618 Main Street, Coventry, RI 02816**

**401 615-7039 - [www.pawtuxet.org](http://www.pawtuxet.org)**

## **MINUTES**

### **Monthly Board Meeting**

**Aspray Boathouse, Pawtuxet Park, Warwick – August 2, 2010**

**Board Members Present: Bob Nero, Ross Adrain, Fritz Benz, Jack Donovan, Scott Goodinson, Rita Holahan, Jack Lancellotta, Ginny Leslie, Paul Lockett, Brian Manning, Carl Mattson (arrived 8:24), Ed Soltys**

**Board Members Absent: Gary Trott (excused)**

**Before the meeting was called to order, it was announced that the September meeting would be delayed one week because of Labor Day; it will be held September 13 at the Warwick Waste Water Treatment Facility.**

### **Call to Order**

**Chairman Bob Nero called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. A quorum was present. Mr. Nero distributed the agenda. On a motion by Mr. Benz, seconded by Mr. Goodinson, the agenda was unanimously approved.**

### **Approval of July, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

**Mr. Nero asked for clarification of the paragraph about the Ethics Commission. Ms. Holahan requested changes in the wording about Cranston's additional \$1,000 contribution. Since the changes would be significant, it was agreed that the secretary would amend the minutes and re-issue them for approval at the September meeting.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. PRA Headquarters:**

**Messrs. Benz and Donovan visited the storefront in Hope. Mr. Benz reported that the site is close to the River and to four of the PRA municipalities (Cranston, West Warwick, Coventry and Scituate). It is clean, has plenty of parking, a restroom, and a utility room for storage. It has about 1,000 square feet and the rent is \$900 per month. It was agreed that we would check out the possibility of an office at the Sprague Mansion in Cranston and it was suggested by Ms. Holahan that we need an up-to-date picture of our financial situation.**

**On a motion by Mr. Benz, seconded by Mr. Manning, the board voted unanimously to vote on an office at the September meeting. Mr. Adrain abstained. Mr. Nero urged everyone to visit the Hope site. Mr. Benz agreed to set up appointments with the owner for site visits.**

### **b. Fish Passage at Pawtuxet Falls**

**A public meeting has been tentatively set for Thursday, September 9 at the Aspray Boathouse. (Secretary's note: this has been changed to Monday, September 20 at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet.) The wetlands**

application has been submitted and it is the largest single anadromous fish passage project in the state's history. It is hoped that the project will begin this year with dredging in November, to coincide with the opening of a CAD cell for disposal. There will be a public comment period for the wetlands application. If someone can find a substantive legal issue that the Department of Environmental Management has not reviewed, DEM will schedule a public hearing on the application.

**c. Municipal funding**

Mr. Nero reported that Attorney Chris D'Ovidio will send letters within a week to Warwick, Coventry, Scituate and West Warwick. Scituate, West Warwick and Coventry are in arrears.

**d. Long and short term PRA planning issues**

Mr. Nero stated that maintaining our properties is a very difficult task for the board. There was a consensus that we should have enough money in our budget to hire maintenance people to take care of our properties.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Open meetings complaint**

We are waiting for the Attorney General's office rule on the complaint by Representative McNamara.

**b. Flood control run-off**

**Mr. Donovan speculated that the former coal mines at Garden City in Cranston might be used as a storm water holding facility. Mr. Goodinson offered to do some investigating about the mines being filled in.**

**c. By laws review subcommittee**

**Ms. Holahan reported that the subcommittee will meet in August and have a report for the September meeting. In addition to Ms. Holahan, Ms. Leslie and Messrs. Mattson, Adrain and Nero serve on the subcommittee.**

**d. River cleaning**

**Mr. Maddalena stated that the lower Pawtuxet needs cleaning up before the paddle scheduled for October. Ms. Holahan said that National Resources Conservation Service has submitted an application for federal funds for an Emergency Watershed Protection grant. She has sent photographs and GPS data to NRCS. We have been asked to hold off on any cleaning so that whatever we do can be used as a funding match.**

**e. Miscellaneous updates**

**Mr. Nero reported that Scituate gave \$2,800 for 2010-2011.**

**He said that he is working on the annual report and will have a**

## **Treasurer's Report for the next meeting.**

**There have been two incidents of dumping on the Howard property. An employee of one of our neighbors on Kenney Drive took photographs and got the license plate of someone dumping landscape debris; this has been reported to DEM. Mr. Maddalena said he noticed some car parts there as well. Mr. Nero said we have money to secure the entrances and that we are waiting for the survey to be completed; it may be a month or more before the survey is done so we can take action. We could put up jersey barriers temporarily; Mr. Nero thinks we should install wooden guard rails and large boulders.**

## **Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mr. Goodinson, seconded by Mr. Donovan, the board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Ginny Leslie, Secretary**